

## FOUR NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *ERETMA- PODITES* (THEOBALD) FROM ASHANTI.

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THESE four new species of the genus *Eretmapodites* are forest mosquitoes. They frequent shady forest paths where there are trees overhead, and where the ground is not quite bare of vegetation. They are sometimes found perching on low bushes, but are usually nearer the ground.

Numbers 3 and 4 are the commoner species, and can be found almost anywhere in the shady forest from May to January.

I have reared females of No. 3 from larvæ taken from a hole full of a decoction of dead leaves in the root of a forest tree. I have caught the female adult on the flowers of the wild pineapple.

All four species, in the resting attitude, carry the third pair of legs curved forward over the thorax; I have not seen them bite. They were taken at Obuasi and Kumasi.

Two other species, *E. quinquevittata* and *E. austenii*, have been described by Theobald, and another, *E. inornatus*, by Newstead, all from Africa.

- A. Pale species; head covered mostly with parti-coloured flat scales. Prothoracic lobes covered with narrow, curved scales.
1. Hind tarsi of male "paddled," of female normal, black . . . . . *oidipodeios*, n. sp.
  2. Hind tarsi of male and female normal, last two joints white . . . . . *leucopous*, n. sp.
- B. Darker species, with more unicoloured flat scales on the head. Prothoracic lobes covered with flat scales.
3. Hind tarsi of male feathered, venter of female golden . . . . . *chrysogaster*, n. sp.
  4. Hind tarsi of male normal, venter of female black and white. . . . . *melanopous*, n. sp.

### 1. *Eretmapodites oidipodeios*, nov. sp.

♂. The head is covered in front with dense parti-coloured (blue and white) flat scales, which project between the eyes and clothe the sides of the head, and in a triangular area behind with golden, narrow-curved and black upright and golden upright forked scales. Six long dark bristles project forward between the eyes, and posterior to them are three lateral bristles on each side of the head.

Antennæ: Plumose, the verticillate hairs pale brown. The two apical segments three times as long as the others.

Palpi: Thin, acuminate, black, without plumose hairs, shorter than proboscis.

Proboscis: Long, thin, blue-black, curved apically.

Clypeus: Dark brown, nude.

Thorax: The mesonotum is covered with narrow-curved scales. The ground colour is orange, covered in the greater part by black scales. Two parallel narrow bands of golden scales run backwards for about three-fourths of the length of the mesonotum, enclosing between them a median black band of equal breadth. Behind, the black median band is continued to the scutellum by a short band of golden scales. Laterally there are two curved bands of golden scales, which reach the hind margin just external to the lateral lobes of the scutellum. An interrupted border of golden scales surrounds the mesonotum. Two tufts of long hairs project backwards above the wing-joints.

Scutellum: The central lobe is covered with blue and white parti-coloured flat scales, almost surrounded by purple flat scales, and on the edge are four long bristles and five smaller ones. The lateral lobes are covered with golden, narrow-curved and black, narrow-curved scales, and show three long bristles and some shorter ones.

Pleura: The pleura is a pale golden colour, with two closely approximated spots of blue and white flat scales below the wing-point, one on the mesopleura and one on the metapleura, with a third smaller spot lower down on the mesopleura. The prothoracic lobes are covered with narrow-curved, golden and a few black scales. There are some bristles on the edge, and below on the expanded tip of the prosternum there is a patch of blue and white flat scales.

Halteres: Base pale cream, part of the stalk and the knob covered with blue-black scales.

Metanotum: A dark golden colour, with five hairs and a few golden, narrow-curved scales at the apex.

Abdomen: A velvety black, with purple reflections, the venter banded with basal white bands, which become oblique laterally and become apical on the sixth segment. There is a dorsal white band on the seventh segment. The abdomen is compressed laterally and expanded posteriorly.

Legs: A purple-black, with narrow apical pale bands on the femora of the third pair. The hind tarsi are of abnormal form and densely plumed. The fourth segment is at right angles to the third segment, and is curved. The fifth segment is as long as the fourth, and nearly straight. Long pale brown hairs hang from the distal extremity of the third segment, and the fourth and fifth segments are feathered on both sides with long pale brown hairs, those on the fourth being almost at right angles to those on the fifth segment.

Ungues: I have not been able to spare a male for dissection.

Wings: Clothed along the costa with blue-black flat scales, with a metallic lustre, and elsewhere with dark-ribbed Trichoprosopon-like scales. The first submarginal cell is narrower and one-third of its length longer than the second posterior cell. The stem of the first submarginal more than half the length of the cell. The super-numerary and mid cross-veins are close together, and the posterior cross-vein about its own length nearer the base of the wing. The sixth vein turns at right angles to the costa just before its termination. There are a few blunt flat scales on the alulae.

Genitalia: The basal lobes are a long oval, with long curved claspers without terminal articulated spines, and covered on the basal half with flat scales, and on the distal half with some bristles. Very long, golden, stiff hairs clothe the basal lobes and project between them. I have not had material for a dissection.

Length: 4 mm.

♀. Head as in male. Antennæ less plumose. Palpi: Rather long, densely scaled, acuminate, black. Proboscis, thorax, metanotum: As in male.

Abdomen: The dorsum and sides are a velvety black, with broad oblique lateral white bands, basal on the proximal segments and apical on the sixth segment. The venter is pale gold, with apical black bands on the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh segments.

Legs: As in male, but the pale band on the hind femora is white. The hind tarsi are of normal form.

Wings: As in male. First submarginal one-third longer than second posterior, and stem of first submarginal half the length of the cell. Cross-veins as in male.

Length: 5 mm.

*Habitat.* Obuasi, in bush-paths, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., in August, October, and November.

## 2. *Eretmapodites leucopous*, nov. sp.

♂. Head as in No. 1, but the scales are less blue. Antennæ, palpi, proboscis, clypeus: As in No. 1. Thorax: Very similar to that of No. 1.

Prothoracic lobes, pleuræ, halteres, scutellum, metanotum: As in No. 1.

Abdomen: Very similar to that of No. 1. A velvety black, with broad bands of white basal banding on the venter; these bands become oblique laterally, and apical on the sixth segment and dorsal on the seventh segment, but do not meet in the middle line dorsally. There are golden ventral spots on the sixth and seventh segments. Abdomen is compressed laterally and flattened and expanded towards the extremity.

Legs: As in No. 1, but the two last segments of the tarsi are pure white and of normal form.

Wings: Colour and scales very similar to those of No. 1. First submarginal cell one-third of its length longer than the second posterior cell. The stem of the first submarginal more than half as long as the cell. All these cross-veins are close together. Sixth vein turns at right angles to costa at its extremity.

Genitalia: Externally very similar to No. 1.

Length: 4 mm.

♀. Head as in male. Antennæ: The verticillate hairs are shorter and less numerous.

Palpi: Very short, and less densely scaled than in No. 1.

Proboscis and clypeus, pleuræ and prothoracic lobes, thorax and scutellum, and halteres: As in male.

Abdomen: The venter a pale golden colour, with brown apical

bands on the fourth, fifth, and sixth segments. The dorsum and sides are velvety black, with oblique white basal lateral bands, becoming apical on the sixth and seventh segments. Abdomen narrowed towards its extremity. Legs and tarsi: As in male.

Wings: First submarginal cell more than one-third of its length longer than the second posterior. The stem of the first submarginal is less than half the length of the cell. The supernumerary and mid cross-veins are close together; the posterior cross-vein about its own length towards the base of the wing. Sixth vein as in male.

Length: 4 mm.

*Habitat.* Obuasi and Kumasi, in bush; August to November at Obuasi, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; October, Kumasi, 11 p.m.

(To be continued.)

## CURRENT NOTES.

BY G. W. KIRKALDY.

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